Accidents at runways

3707. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a number of incidents of tragedies on the runways of different airports across the country;

(b) whether invaluable lives have been lost and the operations have been stalled for hours together;

(c) if so, how many such cases have been reported so far as on date; and

(d) what are the reasons for this type of accidents and the steps taken to prevent them in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (**SHRI** PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No lives have been lost due to incidents on runways in the recent past. However, in 2008, two incidents of animals straying on runway have been reported so far. The runway was blocked for a few hours because of these incidents.

(d) Such incidents are caused due to stray animals entering the runway. To prevent entry of stray animals in the operational area, major steps such as increase in the frequency of runway inspection during each landing and departure, fencing of the airport periphery, grass cutting and checking of water logging inside the airport, wire meshing of the hangars, garbage dumping in covered bins and early removal, regular joint inspection of areas around the airport and deployment of Watch and Ward staff during aircraft operations are taken.

Air services by private companies

3708. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed certain private companies to operate air services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies alongwith the names of places connected and the dates from which they have been allowed to commence their flights;

(d) whether Government has reviewed the performance of these companies; and

(e) if so, the details regarding the agreement as well as the guidelines that have been issued and required to be followed by these private companies?

THE' MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, Jet Airways, JetLite, Air Deccan, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet, Go Air, Paramount Airways and IndiGo are private scheduled airlines operating scheduled air services. The date of commencement of aforesaid private scheduled airlines and the number of stations connected by them are as under:—

Jet Airways—May, 1993:— Agartala, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Bhuj, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Diu, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Jorhat, Khajuraho,

Kolkata, Leh, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Porbander. Portblair, Pune, Raipur, Rajkot, Srinagar, Thoise, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara and Varanasi.

Jet Lite — December, 1993: — Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar, Bhuj, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin.Coimbatore, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Goa, Gurkhpur, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, lndore, Jaipur, Jammu, Jorhat, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Portblair, Pune, Ranchi, Srinagar and Vizag.

Air Deccan — August, 2003:— Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizwal, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Cochin.Coimbatore, Dehradhun, Delhi, Dharamshala, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Goa, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Imphal, lndore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Jorhat, Kandla, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Kullu, Leh, Lilabari, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Portblair, Pune, Raipur, Rajamundry, Ranchi, Shimla, Silchar, Srinagar, Tirupati, Trichy, Tuticorin, Vidyanagar, Vijayawada and Vizag.

Kingfisher— May, 2005: Agartala, Agatti, Agra, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Banglore, Bhubaneshwar, Bhuj,-Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin,Coimbatore, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hubli, Hyderabad, lndore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jammu, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Raipur, Srinagar, Trichy, Trivandrum, Udaipur Varanasi, Vijayawada and Vizag.

Spicejet— May**,** 2005: Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Mumbai, Portblair, Pune, Srinagar, Varanasi and Vizag.

Go Air — November, 2005: Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Mumbai and Srinagar...

Paramount Airways — October, 2005 — Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Madurai, Trivandrum and Vizag.

IndiGo—August, 2006: Agartala, Ahemdabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Vadodara.

(d) and (e) All the scheduled airlines have to comply with various provisions of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) *viz.* airworthiness, operational and safety requirements. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officers also carry out surveilliance checks, safety audits, inspections, etc. to ensure that airlines are adhering to various provisions contained in the Aircraft Rules and CARs.

Delay in merger of Air India

† 3709. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government so far for merger of Air India and Indian;

(b) the reasons for delay in the merger; and

(c) by when both the airlines would be merged completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Effective 27jth August, 2007, Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited have been amalgamated with a new company called the National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.